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<u>ABSTRACT</u>

The present invention provides a method and apparatus for cooperative distributed task management in a storage subsystem with multiple controllers using cache locking. The present invention distributes a task across a set of controllers acting in a cooperative rather than a master/slave nature to perform discrete components of the subject task on an as-available basis. This minimizes the amount of time required to perform incidental data manipulation tasks, thus reducing the duration of instances of degraded system performance.